

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 06391 121233Z

44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-20 USIA-06 SAM-01 OMB-01 IO-04 DRC-01 /072 W

----- 108395

R 121210Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7129

INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

ZENQKUSINT ALGIERS (BY POUCH)

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 6391

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR TS LY

SUBJECT: CHATTI AND QADHAFI

REF: TUNIS 5637 AND TUNIS 5755

1. ASSUME FON MIN CHATTI'S CURRENT VISIT TO TRIPOLI IS ONE HE PLANNED MAKE EARLIER AS FOLLOW UP TO HIS MEETING WITH QADHAFI ON SEPT 11 (TUNIS 5637). DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL CHATTI TOLD ME THAT HE WAS UNABLE TO HAVE "SUBSTANTIVE" DISCUSSIONS WITH QADHAFI AT THE TIME BECAUSE, FIRST, QADHAFI WAS NOT "IN THE MOOD" THE FIRST DAY AND THEN CHATTI WAS CALLED BACK SUDDENLY TO TUNIS TO BE PRESENT FOR VISIT OF TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER.

2. SUBSEQUENTLY, WE HEARD THAT REASON CHATTI LEFT TRIPOLI HASTILY, ON BOURGIBA'S INSTRUCTIONS, WAS THAT QADHAFI
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EXPRESSED DESIRE TO ADDRESS MONASTIR PARTY CONGRESS AND GOT

WISHED AVOID HAVING TO ADDRESS THIS QUESTION
(TUNIS 5755). TURKISH FON MIN'S VISIT WAS USED AS "COVER
STORY".

3. COMMENT: WHILE GOT REMAINS LEARY OF QADHAFI'S INTENTIONS
TOWARDLTUNISIA, MIN DEF SEC STATE AHMED BENNOUR TOLD ME
YESTERDAY, OCTOBER 11, THAT GOT IS CURRENTLY NOT RPT NOT UNDULY
DISTURBED BY POTENTIAL LIBYA THREAT. HE SAID GOT EXPECTS NO QADHAFI
FRONTAL ATTACK, ONLY CONTINUED EFFORTS AT "INFILTRATION."
TO COUNTER THESE, CONTINUED BENNOUR, GOT HAS STEPPED UP ITS
BORDER SURVEILLANCE MEASURES. NEVERTHELESS, BENNOUR EXPRESSED
MILD CONCERN OVER REPORT THAT ALGERIA AND LIBYA ARE BURYING
THE HATCHET. HE FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO CREDIT THIS REPORT
BECAUSE DURING ONE OF PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENNE'S RECENT VISITS
TO TUNISIA LATTER HAD TOLD TUNISIANS: "IF QADHAFI'S GOING TO
HEAVEN, I'LL WANT TO GO TO HELL."
SEELYE

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